THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1864.

OUR PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE SOUTH.

By a vote of the Standing Committee of the nited States Sanitary Commission on the 19th of lay last, Dr. Ellerslie Wallace, Hon. J. I. Clark fare, and the Rev. Treadwell Walden, of Philaelphia, and Dr. Valentine Mott, Dr. Edw. Delafield, nd Gouverneur M. Wilkins, Esq., of New York, vere requested to act as a commission for ascertaining y inquiry and investigation the true physical conition of United States prisoners recently discharged y exchange from confinement at Richmond and lsewhere within the lines of the enemy, as also whether they suffered materially during their juality, or from other privations or sources of dis-ase;" and "whether their privations and sufferngs were designedly inflicted on them by military or other authority of the rebel Government, or

ot control." We published on the 7th instant a review of this eport from the pen of a gentleman who was called o take cognizance of its contents from his official luties in connexion with the army. With the evidence before him the writer thought that this subcommission had settled the question of fact against the insurgent authorities and against their agents entrusted with the care of our prisoners of war : and we think no one can read the report without soming to the conclusion that criminal negligence has been observed by both in the treatment of captives, even when allowance is made for the straitened means of the Richmond Government and for the natural exaggerations of released prisoners, who, after being the victims of an enforced military confinement, are called to tell a tale of horrors to pitying and sympathizing inquirers. The temptation to make out a strong case in such circumstances is almost irresistible.

vere due to causes which such authorities could

We think, however, it is greatly to be regretted. both for themselves and for the national charity in whose name they speak, that the Committee of the Fanitary Commission in making their report had not been careful to exclude from it the suspicion of all preconceived opinions or partisan bias in dealing with the facts elicited by their inquiries.

At the very threshold of their report they dwell with emphasis and pathos upon a statement said to have been made by the custodian of our prisoners in Richmond, to the effect that "if Kilpatrick should succeed in entering Richmond it would not help them, as the prison authorities would blow up the prison and all its inmates." Without undertaking to say that there is any sufficient evidence in confirmation of the statement, the commission aver that "the act was altogether consistent with the characters of the three men who had authority over the prison;" and add that, "be the story true or false, it is at any rate consummately befitting and consistent, inasmuch as the strongest reasons for its probability may be derived from the other Sects that have now been narrated." This method of historical research proceeds, it will be seen, on the principle of accepting as true any thing which the argumentum ad invidiam applied to the soners at Andersonville, says: discovery of facts, and proves nothing beyond controversy or doubt, except the bias and pre-determination of those who use the device of the rhetorician in an inquiry where it has no legitimate

In order to show that the privations to which the prisoners were subjected did not proceed from want of means for their subsistence, but that they were part of a deliberate system for depleting our armies, the commission proceed to make a report of testimony taken from insurgent prisoners of war in our hands. The result of this inquiry, say the commission, amounts to this, in the words of one of them: "They had nothing to complain of in the way of food and clothing." Any one who has ever seen a body of Confederate prisoners marched through our streets will know how far the statement is correct as regards the clothing of the Southern soldiers, and yet, as the commission make no allowance for a natural disposition on the part of returned Union soldiers to exaggerate their sufferings in captivity, so they make no allowance for a natural disposition on the part of Confederate soldiers to exaggerate the resources of their Quartermaster's Department and of their Commissary General. The exaggerations of the latter are quoted only to set in full relief the statements of the former.

How different the nature of such testimony is when borne under a different state of circumstances can be clearly apprehended by all impartial minds in such declarations as the following. We quote from a series of resolutions adopted at a general meeting held on September 28, 1864, by the Federal prisoners confined at Savannab, Georgia, and which were sent to the President of the United States, "in the hope that he might thereby be induced to take such steps as in his wisdom he might think necessary for their speedy exchange or parole :"

" Resolved, That whilst allowing the Confederate authors ties all due praise for the attention paid to our prisoners numbers of our men are daily consigned to early graves so the prime of manhood, far from home and kindred, and this is not caused intentionally by the Confederate Gov ernment, but by the force of circumstances; the prisoner is obliged to go without shelter, and in a great portion of

"Resolved, That whereas ten thousand of our brave mrades have descended to an untimely grave within the set six months, and as we believe their death was caused by the difference of climate, the peculiar kind and insufficiency of food, and lack of proper medical treatment; and whereas those difficulties still remain, we would declare, as our firm belief, that unless we are speedily exchanged we have no other alternative but to share the lamentable fate of our comrades. Must this thing go on? Is there

ne hope?

"Resolved, That, whereas the cold and inclement season is fast approaching, we hold it to be our duty as soldiers and citizens of the United States to inform our Government that the majority of those prisoners are without proper clothing, in some cases being almost naked, and are without blankets to protect us from the scorching sun by day or the heavy dews by night, and we would most respectfully request the Government to make some arrangement whereby we can be supplied with these to us necessary articles.

ved. That whereas the term of service of many of our comrades having expired, they having served truly sed faithfully for the terms of their several enlistments, would most respectfully ask of their Government, are they be forgotten? Are past services to be ignored? Not ving seen their wives and little ones for over three vs. they would most respectfully but firmly request the

Government to make some arrangements whereby they can be exchanged or paroled.

"Resolved, That whereas, in the fortune of war, it was our lot to become prisoners, we have suffered patiently, and are still willing to suffer, if by so doing we can benefit the country; but we would most respectfully beg leave to say that we are not willing to suffer to further the ends of any party or clique, to the detriment of our own honor, our families, and our country; and we would beg that this affair be explained to us, that we may continue to hold the Government in that respect which is necessary to make a good citizen and soldier."

In further evidence of the little care taken by the commission to make their statements authentic and trustworthy, we may note the fact that they aver, after reciting frequent cases in which our prisoners were shot in Richmond for looking out of the windows of their prisons, or for transgressing "the dead lines" marked for their confinement, that "no such order was ever given in any United States station." Whether such "order" was ever given in any United States station we cannot say, but that prisoners have been shot and killed for looking out of the Old Capitol prison is a fact known to every body in Washington, onfinement for want of food, or from its defective and might have been known to the commission if they had taken the trouble to make inquiries on the subject before making their averments.

Complaint is made that our prisoners are not properly supplied with medicines in the Southern hospitals, but no reference is made to the fact that, in consequence of the stringency of our blockade, the entire population of the South is suffering for a lack of medicines. It is in evidence that the doctor in charge of our prisoners at Andersonville has "nothing in the way of medicine but camphor, whiskey, and a decoction of some kind of bark." If there be any virtue in drugs and medicaments their absence may partly explain the distressing and unprecedented mortality at this and other pri-

As if they did not wish to leave any doubt as to the bias under which they have digested their accumulation of facts, the commission proceed, at the end of their report, to point its political and social moral by tracing the barbarities of the insurgents to "a too positive denial of humanity to another race and a too positive contempt for a portion of their own race."

Now, it may be entirely just to instance the existence of slavery at the South as one element of this inquiry, but why are all other explanatory causes ignored-such as the irritations produced by an all-pervading sense of suffering from the desolating presence of our armies among the Southern people, the mortifications left by disappointed hopes, and the exasperations caused by disappointed ambition? As has been well said by another, "The passions generated by factious and usurping ambition and lust of power engaged in desperate enterprises, and, in an iron rule, subordinating to their guilty aims the apprehensions, the prejudices, and even all the holiest sentiments of an isolated and misguided people, and sticking at nothing in the terrible game for success or infamy-to hint no more, these well-known passions open to the view of a philosophic observer a treasury of causes for the horrid drama unfolded in this 'narrative' fully ample for the suggestion of a theory adequate to all the phenomena. But the existence and the development of such passions and their just results are confined to no era, no social condition, no country, and no section."

In evidence of this truth we might refer the commission to a statement found on page 266 of their report, where Private Tracy, in his deposimight have been true, even if it was not true. It tion respecting the sufferings of our unhappy pri-

> "It is a melancholy and mortifying fact that some of our trials came from our own men. At Belle Jale and Andersonville there were among us a gang of desperate men, ready to prey on their fellows. Not only thefts and robberies, but even murders were committed. Affairs became so serious at Camp Sumter that an appeal was made to Gen. Winder, who authorized an arrest and trial by s riminal court. Eighty-six were arrested, and six were hung, besides others who were severely punished. These proceedings effected a marked change for the better."

> Will the Commission pretend that "the thefts and robberies and even murders" which were committed by some of our own imprisoned soldiers on their companions in captivity were the result of slavery? In the face of such statements, contained in their own exposition, the commission convict themselves of preconceived opinions and of very inadequate notions respecting the multiform motives of human depravity. They have a zeal which is highly laudable, but every philosophical reader can perceive that it is not according to knowledge in its defective analysis of the causes lying at the basis of the terrible phenomena they were called

We venture to suggest that they are equally rash when they proceed to implicate the whole Southern people in a responsibility for all that is wanton in the outrages committed by the agents of the Southern Government on our prisoners of war. They clearly pass as much beyond the bounds of probability as of the function prescribed for them in their inquiry when they tell us, at pp. 92-93, that every one who carefully weighs the testimony must come to this very conclusion, that a whole people, as well as a factious, rebelious, and usurned Government, have united in not being thoughtlessly and inconsiderately, but consciously and purposely cruel, and that no other theory will cover" the facts of the case. We have no evidence to justify any such assertion, and every body knows how unjust to the people of the Loyal States would be the converse of the statement which should hold the loyal population of the United States responsible for all the outrages committed by our soldiery in the South without punishment from our Government. War is a system of organized evil, and in its best estate yields a fearful progeny of private wrongs and public calamities—the result of individual wickedness in its agents. And when the commission charge that "the whole people" of the South are "consciously and purposely cruel" to our captives, they seem to forget that in so saying

they confute the theory by which it is elsewhere

sought in their report to trace such barbarities to

a too positive denial of humanity to another race,

and a too positive contempt for a portion of their

own race." Either the one statement is too nar-

row or the other is too broad. And if "the whole

people' of the South are "consciously and pur-

posely cruel," what do this commission mean by

the following closing observations of their report teen flags, belonging mostly to Indiana regiments, were re-"But whatever the event may be, this inquiry will have worked its best purpose if its facts should ever reach that better portion of the Southern people who are really chiv alrous and really religious, who have not been committed to these abuses, who have been kept in ignorance of them, and should lead to a protest and revulsion that will compel their Government to a repudiation of the iniquity, and aptured from the rebels while they were being sent to

Government to make some arrangements whereby they I to a course more worthy of a civilized and christian

In view of such contradictions it is evident that the commission have not entirely succeeded in understanding their subject, or even in coming to an understanding among themselves as to its con-

We insert in another part of to-day's paper a letter from a lady, in which she gives an account of what she heard and saw at Elmira, New York, respecting the sufferings of the insurgent prisoners at that point. As these statements are rather inferential than the result of careful observation, many persons will receive them with doubt as to their entire justice, and certainly we would acquit the people of the United States from any imputation of being a party to such unrelieved afflictions, if they really exist. The Sanitary Commission, we hope, will inquire into the accuracy of the impressions recorded by the writer.

Every reader would naturally suppose that as one result of these inquiries the sub-commission would propound some measure for the relief of our soldiery from the horrors of captivity at the South. But on this point they have nothing to say except what is said by Gen. Butler in his letter detailing the considerations in virtue of which the United States Government cannot agree to an exchange of white prisoners of war unless the insurgent authorities will first agree to include in such exchange the slaves who, after being received into the armies of the United States as freedmen, have been subsequently recaptured by the enemy. Are we to understand that the Sanitary Commission accepts the reasoning of Gen. Butler as a sufficient defence of the policy of the Administration in this matter?

THE USURPATION IN TENNESSEE.

We have repeatedly taken occasion to deplore what has seemed to us a remissness on the part of the Republican press and speakers when called to confront any acts of the Administration or of its agents which were manifestly wrong in theory and injurious in their practical effect. With here and there an exception, all the organs of the party suffer themselves to be coerced into silence or acquiescence where they do not uphold and applaud the abuses of Executive power and prerogative. No public sentiment in favor of holding the incumbents of official place to their due responsibility is either created or fostered, for the conditions of its existence are rendered impossible. Dissentfrom the Executive policy or acts is tolerated in only a single line of direction—that which makes it a source of reproach to the President that he does not in all respects keep abreast with the leaders of his party in what the New York Times calls "the blind race of radicalism and barba-

A signal illustration of this fact is found in the eticence practised by our Republican contemporaries in the matter of the usurpation attempted to be consummated by Mr. Andrew Johnson, the Military Governor of Tennessee, in a way which must shock every American's sense of right, law, and propriety. Nobody has presumed, or it is likely will presume, to justify the iniquitous proseeding by which he has undertaken to compass the disfranchisement of the great mass of the loval people of that State. But how few of the Republican press have had the manliness or the frankness to condemn it. We stated some days ago that we were able to specify only two prints which had thus honored themselves. We to-day have the satisfaction of adding a third. We allude to the Newburyport Herald, which shows the proper spirit regarding it. This Republican journal says:

"Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, has prescribed oaths to be taken before voting in that State which exclude every body who does not endorse his party policy and will not vote with him. He asks them to swear that they are opposed to all armistices or negotiations for peace with rebels in arms, &c Mr. Benton said of the Douglas Kansas-Nebraska bill that it had a stump speech in its belly; and that is emphatically true of Johnson's voting oath. If there is any independence left in the people of Tennessee, they will spit upon such an edict and trample it beneath their feet. No wonder there are traitors in ennessee-such an operation would breed treason any

And to this utterance of a Republican voice in Massachusetts we append the equally emphatic protest of the National Democrat, published at Little Rock, in Arkansas, as the organ of Mr. Lincoln's civil government established at that point on the basis of one-tenth of the people of the "reconstructed" State. This Administration journal says :

"The test oath of Andrew Johnson swears the voter t oppose all armistices or negotiations for peace until all laws and proclamations shall be established over all the people of every State and Territory. No Democrat could take that eath and vote for McClellan. Strip it of its verbiage and it could be condensed into this sentence, 'I

nly swear that I will not vote for a Democrat. "Now, suppose this is adopted and such a course re ognised In Kentucky, where the McClellanites have pajority, they might, with equal propriety, enforce a test ath requiring every voter to swear that he will oppose all further war until an armistice is made and negotiation or peace have failed, and so fix up the oath that no Reublican could take it without committing perjury. There is no election, no choice, in this. Better burn the ballot-box at once and stop playing the farce of holding

LETTER FROM GEN. MCCLELLAN.

The following letter from Gen. McClellan was read Monday evening at a meeting of the McClellan Legion in the city of New York, and received with enthusiastic

ORANGE, OCTOBER 13, 1864. MY DEAR SIR: In consequence of an absence of several days from home, your letter of the 8th did not meet my eye until to-day.

I accept with pride the honorary membership of the Legion you have done me the honor to call by my name. No greater compliment could have been paid to me than this association of my name with a society composed of my comrades in the present war. My love and gratitude for them have remained unchanged during our long separation, and I have watched with the most intense interest their noble and persistent gallantry in the many battles they have fought under the commanders who have succeeded me in the Army of the Potomac. You and they may rest estisfied that I remain the same man that I was when I had the bonor to command the Army of the Potomac,

and that I shall never willingly disappoint their confidence,
With my sincere thanks for the compliment you have aid me, and my earnest wishes for the prosperity of my ormer comrades, and of our country, I am, very respectfully and truly, your friend.

GEORGE B. McCLELLAN. Mr. Secretary Fessenden and Mr. Simeon Draper, Col.

ector of the port of New York, returned to Washington resterday morning from a visit to Gen. Grant's army. Secretary Stanton, General Meige, Quartermaster Gene ral, the Commissary General, and the Surgeon General of

the army, arrived at Fortress Monroe from the front on Toesday morning and proceeded to Norfolk. Despatches from New Orleans via Cairo state that thir-

rebel beadquarters. A mail was also captured, containing full returns of rebel forces on the west side of the river. Our exchanges say there will be an abundant crop buckwheat throughout Pennsylvania, and that it is out danger from frosts.

VARIETIES OF POLITICAL OPINION.

A few days before the assembling of the Chicago Convention, in remarking on the political aspects of the time as presented by the different shades of political opinion represented in the Democratic and in the Republican parties, we held the following

"All parties have their 'radicals' and their 'conserva-"All parties have their 'radicals' and their 'conservatives.' There are men in the Republican party who develop certain of its doctrines in a line of direction which tends
to disintegration—disintegration of the Union and of the
party. And there are men in the Democratic party who
develop certain aspirations of the popular thought in a line
of direction which equally tends to disintegration, if they
shall assume to make a full and implicit adhesion to their
sole views of public policy the condition on which they will
co operate with their fellow-citizens of other creeds in the
effort to effect a change of men and measures in the coneffort to effect a change of men and measures in the conduct of the Government. As the only ground of suppose dust of the dovernment. As the only ground the dissensions among different wings of this party relates to the comparative merits of 'peace' or 'war,' considered as policies looking to a restoration of the Union, (for we understand that the advocates of the 'peace policy' disavow all willingness to accept a disunion peace,) it is easy, to perceive that the question between them in the present aspect of our affairs is purely theoretical rather than practical, for, as all righteous wars are waged simply to procure a righteous and honorable peace, the most determined advocate of 'the war for the Union' will be ready at any moment to renounce the rolling forms. any moment to renounce the policy of war so soon as it shall appear that peaceful negotiations can conduct to a restoration of the Union and to a settlement of the questions at issue between the people of the Loyal and the In

On the 22d of August last, only a week before the Chicago Convention met to nominate candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency, we wrote as follows:

"We think it hardly too much to say that this assem blage will hold the hearts of the people in its hands, and, according as its counsels shall seem to be prompted by the pirit of a comprehensive and catholic patriotism, or by he spirit of faction and dissension, it may count upon the adgment which will be pronounced on its lobors. Men's judgment which will be pronounced on its lobors. Men's thoughts no longer run in the old channels. Party names have lost all their power to charm. The people are every where looking for a leader who will offer them, under bis guidance, the prospect of an escape from the terrible evils by which the country is environed. The people, we say, want a leader, a man 'with heart, head, and hand' equal to the crisis in which he shall be called to act—a man who by his native qualities or by his antecedents shall inspire confidence not only in his disposition but in his capacity to confidence not only in his disposition but in his capacity to bring healing to this distracted land."

And at the same time, after presupposing that the Chicago Convention, following the example of its predecessors in late years, would feel called to construct what, in modern parlance, is known as a platform." we added:

"Our readers know that we have no great respect for this species of political structure. Platforms have always seemed to us a c'umsy device for the elevation of small men into a conspicuousness which they would never have received from the dignity of their characters or the emi-nence of their public services. As has been well said by another, 'they are commonly made in times of high excit ment, under a pressure of circumstances, and with the view to conciliate present support rather than to establish permanent system of principles and line of policy for the future good government of the country. The Conventions which form them are transient in their nature; their power nd influence are consumed in the using, leaving no con tinuing obligation upon their respective parties; and hence we need not wonder that platforms, so made, are hardly ver acted upon in practice.

With such sentiments our readers have been at no loss to understand that nothing which the socalled "Chicago platform" either contains or omits has been with us a reason for supporting Gen. McClellan, as nothing contained in or omitted from the Baltimore platform has been with us a reason for opposing the re-election of President Lincoln. We have looked simply and steadfastly to the political principles which, as embodied in the life, record, and known opinions of the respective candilates, and as viewed in combination with their ersonal characters, have seemed to offer to our minds the surest if not the only hope of a restoration of the Union. Wholly abjuring the spell of party names, we should have been as willing to support a Republican as a Democrat, provided he had presented in his person the assurance of possessng in a higher degree than his opponent these principles and qualifications which would better fit him to be the leader of the people in this great crisis.

In all political connections, embracing "many men of many minds," it must necessarily happen that there will be diversities of sentiment and sometimes divergent tendencies embodied in the same organization. It is so in the Democratic party at the present time, and it is equally so in the Republican party as at present constituted. The so-called "Vallandigham faction" in the Democratic party occupies the same place and performs the same function in it as the "Greeley faction" in the Republican party, with this essential difference, that whereas the former is powerless to impress its views on the supporters of General McClellan or on General McClellan himself, the presumption on which Mr. Greeley supports Mr. Lincoln is, that if he should be re-elected it will be in the power of his more advanced and radical adherents to impart to his Administration their qualities of "vigor," "carnestness," and "understanding."

We are very far from charging that all who support the re-election of Mr. Lincoln do so in the expectation that he will be governed by the advice and influenced by the "pressure" of this "Greelev faction," to which, as well from principle as from personal inclination, he is known to be opposed. And when we see men as divergent in their views as the Hon. Montgomery Blair and Wendell Phillips practically united in support of the same Presidential candidate, it would be very unjust in us to charge either with sharing the views of the other because of the political fellowship into which they are brought by the stress of a party canvass or by the drift of events, modifying their actions if not changing their opinions. What the ex-Postmaster General thinks of the "Wendell Phillips junto" is no secret to any body who recalls the speech he made some months ago in New Hampshire. In that speech Mr. Blair said

"There are two knots of conspiring politicians at opposite ends of the Union that make slavery a fulcrum which they would play see-saw with the Government, and willingly break it in the middle and demolish it to make experiments with the fractions in reconstructions suited to their designs, which are only known as hostile to the vell-balanced Constitutions inherited by our fathers. The Calboun and Wendell Phillips Juntos have both sought the accomplishment of their adverse ends by a common means— the overthrow of the Coustitution. Calhoun's school would destroy every free principle, because repugnant to the perpetuity and propagation of slavery universally as the only eafe foundation of good government—Phillips's school would subject all our systems of government to the guillo tine of revolutionary tribunals, because they recognise the existence of different races among us, of white, red, and black; because they repudiate the idea of equality and frateruity in regard to citizenship that tends to produce that amalgamation, personal and political, which would make our Government one of mongrel races; and because they authorize legislation, State and National, which may exclude them from taking root in the soil and Government

times have been those broached by slaves against enslavers. Our civil war, closing in the manumission of four million of slaves, to take equal rank with six million of enarmination. The advocates of this hybrid policy know this, but they think the negro so essential to the selfish purposes of their political ambition that, like Calhoun.

they are willing to make him, as well as those who hold him in durance, the victim of their policy. I advocate the President's plan of saving both and ministering to their prosperity and to their elevation in their respective spheres to power and greatness as a people."

But, while just allowance is made for diversities of sentiment in the Republican party, it has been the policy of the Republican press and orators throughout the canvass to identify the great mass of Gen. McClellan's supporters, and Gen. McClellan himself, with that inconsiderable and uninfluential fragment of his disaffected supporters popularly known and denounced as "the Woods and the Vallandighams." It is admitted on all hands that the great mass of Gen. McClellan's friends, equally with Gen. McClellan himself, has no sympathy with the peculiar views of this class, and yet in prints which have hitherto been capable of doing justice to their political opponents we have seen little in the way of argument, but much in the way of popular adjuration addressed to this form of political prejudice, as unjust in its application to the party attacked as it is derogatory to the intelligence of the party which is reduced to such ignoble resorts.

No newspaper has more teemed with this cheap invective than the New York Tribune, and yet the conductor of that journal, in a letter published under his own signature in the New York Independent of the 15th ultimo, held the following language :

"The nation is stronger to day for its struggle with armed treason than it would have been had Gen. McClellan quietly accepted the Chicago platform. Whether he has treated the disciples of Vallandigham quite fairly or otherwise, is a question which we are not required to decide. Suffice it for the present that, whatever its faults and whatever may be its influence on the fluctuating fortunes of party, the General's letter of acceptance is destined to effect favorably the momentous issue of our great struggle for freedom and our country."

To like effect that ardent Republican paper the Cincinnati Commercial, in commenting on Gen. McClellan's letter of acceptance immediately after its appearance, was frank enough to say:

"Simple justice to Gen. McClellan requires recognition fact that he has done the country a substantial serof the fact that he has done the country a substantial service in the letter in which he accepts the nomination conferred upon him by the Chicago Convention. Good citizens may exchange congratulations that after all the apprehensions felt as to the dangers arising from the occurrence of a Presidential election in this crisis of our civil war, the candidate of the Opposition expresses the sentiments we had the satisfaction of reading yesterday. We shall not join in the search for hidden and treacherous meanings to Can McChillen's extra the contract of t meanings to Gen. McClellan's sentences, coming to us as they do somewhat mangled by transmission over the wires, on a night unfavorable for telegraphing. It is clear enough that he is not a disunion peace man."

And yet, in the face of such admissions, which every body knows to be true, the Republican press from day to day, and a large portion of the so-called religious press in its weekly issues, have sought to obscure the nature of the issues before the country as respectively illustrated by the candidacies of Gen. McClellan and Mr. Lincoln It has been attempted to impress the popular mind with the conviction that Gen. McClellan was something less than loyal to the Union which he was pledged to maintain "at all hazards." and the simulated fear has been affected that extreme men, with whose views he has as little sympathy as with those of their natural complements on the Republican party, were the men who would give color and direction to his policy should he be called to the administration of the Government. It remains to be seen what effect such unjust representations will have on the popular mind, but that they are unjust will in any event be admitted by the candid and the upright of all parties.

OFFICIAL NEWS FROM GEN. SHERMAN.

SHIP'S GAP, OCTOBER 16-5 P. M. We took Ship's Gap to-day, capturing a part of the 24th North Carolina regiment. Two corps are represented at Lafayette, and one went south from Villarica Plain. They obstructed Snake Creek Pass to delay our trains. but by to-morrow I can move in any direction.

W. T. SHERMAN, Major General.

CHATTANOOGA, (TENN.) OCTOBER 17, 3 P. M. Hood's main force was about Lafayette last night, and Sherman at Ship's Gap. The report of yesterday that Hood was approaching Carpenter's Ferry is a mistake. He had not crossed Lookout Mountain last night.

J. M. SCHOFIELD, Major General.

CHATTANOOGA, (TENN.) OCTOBER 17, 1861. I left Gen. Sherman at Ship's Gap, in Taylor's Ridge, at dark last night. The General and army are all right and in the best of spirits. Hood won't fight, though offered battle repeatedly. His dreadful repulse at Allatoona has made him very cautious. Gen. Slocum is all right at At lanta, with plenty of provisions and forage. Hood's raid has produced no military result as yet. If he fails to inrade Tennessee, as he has promised his men, he will loose by desertion twice as many as he has captured. The cases in men thus far have been in our favor. Hood demanded the surrender of Resses and Dalton, and said if surrendered, white officers and soldiers would be paroled in a few days, but that if the posts were carried by assault no prisoners would be taken. Rome is all right.

CHATTANOOGA, OCTOBER 17, 10 A. M. The rear of Hood's army left Lafayette, going south, at daylight this morning.

J. M. SCHOFIELD, Major General.

NASHVILLE, (TENN.) OCTOBER 17, 4 P. M. Deserters from Hood's army report his force at thirty thousand. The strength of his cavalry is not known. No additional news from the Tennessee river, except that Roddy's force moved from Tuscumbia yesterday. G . W. THOMAS, Major General.

Mr. Dana, acting Secretary of War in the absence of

Mr. Stanton, accompanies the publication of the foregoing intelligence with the following remarks: "The country south and southwest of Lafayette is ex-

seedingly difficult for an inferior army vigorously pursued consisting of narrow valleys parallel to the range of Tay or's Ridge and Lookout Mountain, broken by rough hills and destitute of food for man or beast, until you reach the Oosa river, a distance equal to three days' forced

UNOFFICIAL DESPATCH.

NASHVILLE, OCT. 18.-Hood's army destroyed the railroad for twenty-three miles between Tunnel Hill and Resacs, and also between Big Shanty and Allatoons. The rebel commander demanded the surrender of Resace. threatening death to the garrison if the demand was not acceded to. The commander, Col Weaver, of the Eighth Ohio, refused to surrender, and after skirmishing the rebel

The enemy then advanced upon Dalton, which was surrendered without a shot being fired, by Col. Johnson, of the Forty fourth United States colored troops, who could easily have held the town if so disposed. Tunnel Hill was

From this point Hood went southwest. On the road he vas confronted by the Fourth Corps under Gen. Stanley, at Snake Creek Gap, where severe fighting ensued. The

Beauregard is reported as commandant in chief of the Army of the Mississippi, Hood being only commander of he department. Gen. Sherman is watching every move o his antagonist, and news of important operations are exected soon from that quarter.

A despatch this morning reports Hood at Somerville. No reinforcements have reached him, and his militia have nearly all deserted. Prominent military men believe that these rebel movements will result disastrously to them. Some rebel force is reported at Cedar Hill, near Springfield, (Tenn.) under Holmes, the guerrilla, who has opened FROM THE VALLEY.

FET ANOTHER BATTLE AND ANOTHER BRIL-LIANT VICTORY BY SHERIDAN.

Gen. Longstreet Defeated and Routed with the Loss of Forty-three Guns.

The Secretary of War, who has returned from his visit o'Gen. Grant's army, announces that another great battle was fought on Wednesday, the 19th instant, at Cedar Creek. threatening at first great disaster, but finally resulting in a brilliant victory for the Union forces under Gen. Sheridan. The enemy lost forty-three pieces of artillery and many pri soners, among whom was the rebel Gen. Ramseur, supposed to be mortally wounded. On our side, Generals Wright, Grover, and Ricketts were wounded-the first named slight'y-and Gen. Bidwell killed.

The Secretary states that the Department was advised on Wednesday evening of the commencement of the battle by the following telegrame:

RECTORTOWN, (VA) OCT. 19-4 P. M.
Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, Chief of Staff: Heavy cannonading has recommenced in the velley, and is now going on.

C. C. Augur, Major General.

HARPER'S FERRY, OCT. 19-6 40 P. M. Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War: Firing at the front has been continuous during the day. The direction seemed at intervals to be to the left of Winchester, as if at Berry's Ferry. No news from the front.

JOHN D. STEVERSON, Brig. Gen

HARPER'S FERRY, OCTOBER 19,8 45 P. M Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War:

The enemy attacked our army with great impetuosity this morning at daylight. The attack was made on left of Eighth Corps, and was at first successful, they capturing some guns, prisoners, and wagons. Our line was refermed, and heavy fighting continued through the day. Sherilan, reported at Winchester this morning, went out to the front. The particulars received are not official and are not favorable, though no serious disaster could have oc-curred without direct news from Sheridan.

Respectfully, JOHN D. STEVENSON,

Matters remained in the doubtful state represented by he foregoing telegrams until morning, at half past nine clock, when the following telegram was received, unofficially reporting the great victory won by Sheridan's army HARPER'S FERRY, (VA) OCTOBER 20, 1864.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War:
News was received from Sheridan's headquarters at
midnight to the effect that the enemy surprised our forces yesterday morning, driving the command in some confusion this side of Newtown, and capturing artillery and prisoners. Sheridan arrived on the field, reorganized our forces, drove the enemy beyond Strasburg, capturing, it is re-ported, forty-three pieces of artillery, one hundred wagons and ambulances, and some two thousand prisoners. The rout of the enemy is said to be complete. This is not offi-

J. D. STEVENSON, Brigadier General

GEN. SHERIDAN'S OFFICIAL REPORT

A few minutes after the receipt of the foregoing despatch the annexed report of the battle and the victory was received from Gen Sheridan. This battle was fought on the same day (19th) of the month that witnessed Sheridan's victory in September. What were the forces or the strength of the enemy engaged has not yet been reported to the Department; but the Secretary says that the oldness, vigor, and success of the attack strongly indicate that a heavy reinforcement had been sent from Richmond. with the expectation of fulfilling Longstreet's boast to smash up Sheridan. Longstreet was known to be in the valley, and had assumed command of the rebel army. Here is Gen. Sheridan's despatch :

CEDAR CREEK, OCTOBER 19, 10 P M Lieutenant General GRANT, City Point :

I have the honor to report that my army at Cedar Creek was attacked this morning before daylight, and my left was turned and driven in confusion. In fact most of the line was driven in confusion, with the loss of twenty pieces of

I hastened from Winchester, where I was on my return from Washington, and found the armies between vidletown and Newtown, having been driven back about four miles.

I here took the affair in hand, and, quickly uniting the corps, formed a compact line of battle just in time to repulse an attack of the enemy, which was haudsomely dene at 1 P. M.

At 3 P. M., after some changes of the cavalry from the left to the right flank, I a and routing the enemy, and capturing, according to the last report, forty-three pieces of artillery and very many prisoners.

I do not know the number of my casualties or the losses of the enemy. Wagon trains, ambulances, and caissons in arge numbers are in our possession. The enemy also purned some of their trains

Gen. Ramseur is a prisoner in our hands, severely and perhaps mortally wounded. I have to regret the loss of Gen. Bidwell killed, and Gens. Wright, Grover, and Rick -

etts wounded-Wright slightly wounded. Affairs at the time looked badly, but, by the gallantry of our brave officers and men, disaster has been converted

into a spendid victory. Darkness again intervened to shut ff greater results. I now occupy Strasburg. As soon as obtained I will

end you further particulars. P. H. SHERIDAN, Major General.

THE MARYLAND ELECTION.

We learn from the Baltimore American that the official returns, as we apprehended might be the case, reduce the majorities heretofore stated to have been given against the Constitution in several of the counties, especially in Prince George's, Somerset, Queen Anne's, and Dorchester, whilst the soldiers' vote, thrown almost unanimously in favor of the Constitution, has steadily reduced the adverse legal majorities against the Constitution. The account is now made to stand as follows: For. Against.

Alleguany co								-				200	-
Anne Arund	el,											-	1,099
Baltimore ci	ty,					10						7,726	-
Baltimore co	unt	y.					-		40			132	-
Carroll,	7	3		- 7								-	100
Calvert, .									1			-	577
Charles,	4.7			-								-	875
Cecil.							1					1	-
Caroline,								36		39	dr.	54	-
Dorchester,									-	80		-	1,037
Frederick,	27.1	-						39		4.		992	.,
Howard,	1				-	23				0	5		190
Harford,			2								05	-	488
Kent.						93						_	968
Montgomery	3 15				2						ø	_	940
Prince Geory	, 'a			*									999
Queen Anne			0		*								1.357
Somerset,	•					-							
	1				-							-	1,601
St. Mary's,								417				-	978
Talbot.							140		1		1	-	590
Worcester,								18				-	1,180
Washington,												1,456	-
											-	11,246	12.899

This table shows the legal majority against the Constitation to be 1,646 votes. The majorities given by the illegal votes of the soldiers are stated to give a majority in favor of the Constitution of 2,403 votes.

THE LATEST RETURNS

The result of the vote on the New Constitution is yet doubtful, though the prospect is still favorable to its adoption. Official returns have been received from all the counties of the State except Queen Anne's, Dorchester. and Somerset. Adding the reported majorities from these counties the returns of the home rote foot up as follows: For the Constitution..... 20,408

Majority against the home vote 1.943

The soldiers' vote, so far as officially received and countd, gives 1,524 majority in favor of the Constitution. This 319 majority on the home vote against the Constitution yet to be overcome. To counterbalance this we have yet to hear, officially, from the 6th Infantry, the 34 regiment of the Potomac Home Brigade, the 2d Eastern ore regiment, Cole's Cavalry, (two batallions,) the 3d Cavalry, Alexander's Battery, and two companies of the 12th Regiment. Mr King, the Commissioner appointed by the Governor to bring in the returns of the army of the Shenandoah Valley, has not reached this city. At a very moderate estimate this vote will reach five hundred for